(c) 8 clerks on Rs. 15 for the 8 newly opened Panchayat Courts.

(d) Yes.

(e) For want of funds.

(f) Yes.

(g) Yes, the question of revising the pay of these clerks is under consideration. The existing rules do not allow to count their services as pensionable, but as a compensation for it, the Government is considering the question of introducing a system of contributory provident fund, for these people.

(h) Yes.

(i) Yes, one V. Achyuta Menon, B. A., copyist, Oorakam Panchayat, has been taken to the Head Office.

Duties of Panchayats.

200. **Mr. M. A. Sankunni.**—With reference to Question No. 119 (c) of the last Budget Session, will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) what are these local affairs referred to;

(b) do they comprise both criminal and civil affairs; if so, how far?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—(a) The Hon'ble Member's attention is drawn to the 'Preamble' of the Village Panchayat Regulation, V of 1089, where the local affairs the Panchayats have to attend to are given in detail.

(b) The Panchayat Courts have no criminal jurisdiction but only civil as provided in section 20 and other sections of the Village Panchayat Regulation V of 1089 as amended up-to-date.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Hon'ble Member for Public Health kindly inform the House how many of our Panchayats yet remain to be vested with civil powers?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—53.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Have the Government any idea of investing any more Panchayats with civil powers?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—It is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar—Are they going to be vested with criminal powers also?

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Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—No. Not at present.

Road from Velappaya Road to Mundathicode road.

201. **Mr. P. Raman Menon.**—Adverting to Question No. 191 of the Budget Session of 1110, will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) is there any truth in the rumour that the present Director of Panchayats and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies together have changed the course of the proposed road;

(b) if so, is not the new alignment more costly;

(c) is it true that the new course benefits the present Co-operative Registrar most?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—(a) The Director has not made any material alteration in the alignment except aligning the road straight as far as possible avoiding bad curves and steep gradients. The Co-operative Registrar has nothing to do with the Director in this matter.

(b) No.

(c) The present Co-operative Registrar will be one of the several beneficiaries of the road.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Who made the first alignment?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—It was made sometime back by the then Registrar of Village Panchayats.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ.— ഈ പുതിയ എലൈൻമെൻറ പ്രകാരം അക്വസിഷൻ നടത്തേണ്ടിവരുമൊ?

ഡാക്ടർ ഇ. എസ്സ്. ആർ. മേനോൻ.— വരും.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ.— ആദ്യത്തെ എലൈൻമെൻറ പ്രകാരമായിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ അകപ്യർചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യമുണ്ടായിരുന്നൊ?

ഡാക്ടർ ഇ. എസ്സ്. ആർ. മേനോൻ.— ആവശ്യമില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ.— അതിന്ന് കൂടുതൽ ചിലവു വരുമൊ?

ഡാക്ടർ ഇ. എസ്സ്. ആർ. മേനോൻ.— ഇല്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ.— അധികം ഉപയോഗപ്രദമായതു് ആദ്യത്തേതൊ ഇപ്പോഴത്തേതൊ?

ഡാക്ടർ ഇ. എസ്സ്. ആർ. മേനോൻ.— ഇപ്പോഴത്തേതു്.

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